



COUNCIL OF EUROPE    CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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**EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW**  
**(VENICE COMMISSION)**

**TRAINING SEMINAR ON ELECTORAL MATTERS**  
**(Yerevan, 5-8 May 2003)**

SYNOPSIS

From the 5 to May 8, 2003, the Venice Commission organised a training seminar on electoral matters in Armenia.

The aim of this seminar was to train and inform those involved in the electoral process in view of the legislative elections to be held from May 25, namely: members of electoral administrations, judges, representatives of the political parties and candidates represented or not at the Parliament, NGOs and media.

Two and a half days (May 5-7) were devoted to interventions by experts and questions/reply sessions, on the following topics:

- candidates, voters and election campaign (Claude CASAGRANDE);
- what happens at the poll from the voters point of view (Jean-Stéphane SZIJARTO), and from the point of view of observers and the representatives of the candidates and the political parties (M. CASAGRANDE);
- counting of the votes, declaration and publication of results (M. SZIJARTO);
- electoral commissions (Didier VINOLAS);
- and electoral appeals (Michel MOREL de VILLIERS).

The morning of May 8 was spent on practical exercises regarding election day, voting and counting the vote, which we filmed. Participants in the seminar were committed and enthusiastic, however the Venice Commission regretted the weak turn out.

During this seminar, the following points were underlined:

- Good practice for the voting day and the count requires transparent ballot boxes and, in this case, three separate ballot boxes for the three separate polls foreseen for 25 May (legislative - proportional vote, legislative - majority vote and the referendum), so as to avoid the mix-up of different voting ballots and thus allow a correct count.
- Although the Venice Commission had worked with the authorities on the constitutional amendments, it had not yet received the latest version to be presented at the referendum.
- The Venice Commission also hoped that citizens would be better informed than they had been previously regarding the constitutional amendments submitted to referendum.

Gianni Buquicchio  
Secretary of the Venice Commission